

## Amusements Co-Night.

ROADSIDE OF MUSIC—8—“Semitone.”  
 BROADWAY HOUSE—9—“The Sorcerer.”  
 BROADWAY THEATRE—9—“The Twelfth Night.”  
 DAILY THEATRE—8 and 8:15—“Our English Friend.”  
 FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8—“Forbidden Fruit.”  
 GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—“The Sorcerer.”—8—“The Little Detective.”  
 HAYMARKET 14TH STREET THEATRE—8—“Jonah Whitcomb.”  
 HERBERT'S STANDARD THEATRE—8:15—“Iolanthe.”  
 NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—Art Exhibition.  
 PALACE GARDEN—8 and 8:15—“The Rantana.”  
 SAN FRANCISCO OPERA HOUSE—8—San Francisco Minstrels.  
 TRAILA THEATRE—8—“The Princess of Trebizond.”  
 THEATRE COMIQUE—8—“Mosses of the Rantana.”  
 UNION SQUARE THEATRE—8—“The Rantana.”  
 WALLACK'S THEATRE—8—Old Heads and Young Hearts.

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## Business Notices.

**“ALDERNEY BRAND”**  
 CONDENSED MILK.  
 Buy your holiday candies and fancy boxes at BROWNELL'S. He has the largest assortment in New York of all kinds of confectionery, and a five-pound box of his mixed candies for 25 cents. He also has the finest chocolate goods a specialty. 821 Broadway, near 12th st., and 295 6th ave., near 15th st.

**HOLIDAY PRESENTS**  
 for students and all people of culture.  
 Drawing Tables and Artists' Boxes the latest and best; Musical Instruments, in sets and single pieces; Color boxes for professionals and amateurs in immense variety, and all drawing implements at KREFFEL & ESSELE, 127 Fulton st., and 42nd Ave., New York.

**WM. H. JACKSON & CO.,**  
 NORTH SIDE, UNION SQUARE,  
 (Second door from Broadway.)  
 Designers and manufacturers of  
 FINE CHAIRS, FENDERS, and FIRE-PLACE NOVELTIES.  
 I. ART METAL WORK.  
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 IV. Open evenings until Christmas.

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 SHEPARD KNAPP & CO., 50th Ave., and 13th st.

**BRANCH OFFICES OF THE TRIBUNE.**  
 WASHINGTON—No. 1,322 F St.  
 LONDON—No. 26 Bedford St., Strand.  
 PARIS—No. 9 Rue de la Harpe.

**THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE** will be ready this morning at 8 o'clock, in wrappers for mailing. Price 5 cents.

**New-York Daily Tribune.**  
 FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1882.

**THE NEWS THIS MORNING.**

**FOREIGN.**—There is much distress in Loughrea, Ireland, the people being in want of food. Three vessels were wrecked and the crews drowned in the storm off the coast of Scotland; many vessels have been wrecked by a storm off Newfoundland. Gumbetta is suffering from inflammation of the bowels. Postmaster-General Fawcett, of England, is convalescent.

**CONGRESS.**—In the Senate yesterday the Indian Appropriation bill was amended and passed. The Sherman bill, relative to the withdrawal of distilled spirits in bonded warehouses, was considered and amended. In the House a bill was introduced to abolish the Internal Revenue bill on fermented liquors. The Army Appropriation bill was reported. A resolution for a holiday recess was adopted. The Post Office Appropriation bill was considered, and the Robeson amendment was debated without action.

**DOMESTIC.**—Henry H. Jessup, of New-York, was yesterday nominated to be Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople. Colonel Bliss concluded his opening address in the Star Route cases. Severe earthquake shocks were felt at various parts of New-Hampshire. A fatal accident occurred on the Troy and Boston Railroad at Melrose, N. Y. The Pittsburgh and Bradford oil markets were excited yesterday by reports of the discovery of a great petroleum well. A destructive fire occurred in Grand Forks, D. T. Benson & Sessions, of Cohoes, were arrested yesterday, charged with incendiarism. Thomas Doyle and Kate Morgan, a runaway couple from Onondaga County, were arrested by gas in their room at Rochester, N. Y. The Scoville family troubles are said to have been arranged. The Ohio Legislature bribery cases have ended in the discharge of the accused men. Dr. Forbes, of the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, has been indicted for complicity with grave robbers. Henry James died yesterday in Boston. A public reception was given to Hannibal Hamlin in Bangor, Me., last evening.

**CITY AND SUBURBAN.**—Joseph Cook lectured last night on the “Religious Signs of the Times.” A man was arrested yesterday for swindling Alfred Clock, of No. 539 Madison ave., out of a large sum of money. Argument was heard on the injunctions obtained by dealers who wish to keep open on Sunday. J. M. White & Co., tea merchants, made an assignment; the liabilities are reported at \$150,000. Further testimony taken in the Keop lieh proceedings. Bernard Bignin was examined again by the Senate Finance Committee. Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (412½ grains, 84.75 cents. Stocks were less active and higher, and closed without character at a small reaction.

**THE WEATHER.**—TRIBUNE local observations indicate clear followed by cloudy weather and possibly snow. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 34°; lowest, 20°; average, 24½°.

**The first arrest for attempted suicide under the Penal Code had the happy ending of old-fashioned romances—marriage.** The story disclosed the familiar episodes of love, promises, betrayed confidence, tears, attempted self-murder, prisons, trial scenes, and the union of the lovers. Even the method of suicide which the unhappy heroine adopted is noteworthy. She chewed the heads of matches. After so many interruptions the course of true love ought to run smoothly hereafter.

**Mr. Joseph Cook, after his trip around the world, has reappeared once more before his friends in New-York.** He lectured last night in the Church of the Divine Paternity on “The Religious Signs of the Times.” Mr. Cook takes a cheerful view of religious affairs and thinks Christianity is making excellent progress. The substance of the lecture will be found in our local columns.

**The “menacing comet” which Mr. Richard A. Proctor, the English astronomer, expected to return early next year, is not likely to be**

avallowed up by the sun for several centuries. According to the calculations of Professor Frisby, of the Naval Observatory, Washington, its orbit is an ellipse of such great length that the comet will spend nearly eight hundred years in traversing it. This will be cheering news to the timid souls who were afraid the world might be burnt up on the reappearance of the comet, but it is not complimentary to Mr. Proctor and his calculations.

The city is not to pay bills for damages against the New-York Elevated Railway without a protest. It is the opinion of the Corporation Council that the authorities should not interpose that the company brought by the suits against the company for damages done to their property. The company, however, will probably not accept this opinion, and therefore the prospect of expensive litigation seems almost endless. It would certainly be highly satisfactory to most taxpayers (not lawyers) if some arrangement could be reached by which the elevated roads would be a source of profit to the city instead of the heavy burden they are now.

Republicans who are anxious to see the party in this city reorganized will find little to encourage them in the account of the meeting of the Central Committee last night. Reports were received from six district associations saying that they favored an amendment to the constitution which would make the pledge of membership more liberal, so as to allow the independent voters some chance to join. There was a good deal of talk, not very much to the point, and finally the matter was laid on the table. This was the last act of the old committee. The one recently elected meets next month, but its complexion is not much improved, and it is not likely to bring forth any fruits meet for repentance.

The Lowell bankruptcy bill now before Congress has not been improved in committee. The proposal making dealing in futures an act of bankruptcy is clearly an error. Acts of bankruptcy are those incidents of conduct which the law regards as indicating insolvency; as where a debtor absconds or “keeps his house” to avoid process. But speculation in stocks or grain, though it often ends in ruin, is not in itself an evidence of financial distress. If Congress really desires to check stock gambling it might follow the French law and impose a penalty of imprisonment on any bankrupt whose failure is caused by speculation.

The last report of the Commissioner of Public Works in regard to the supply of Croton is rather more doleful than usual. With a plenty of water in the Croton River valley and the aqueduct running to its full capacity the Commissioner admits that the supply in the city is inadequate and likely to become more so. He urges economy in the use of the water and remarks that he is tired of the daily complaints of a short supply. The public is likely to go on as it has been doing regardless of the Commissioner's feelings; but if the Assemblymen who are about to meet in Albany will give the matter consideration Mr. Thompson may be soothed. The trouble is that when we are told the aqueduct will not carry water enough, nobody knows whether to believe it or not. Mr. Thompson may think this hard; but character and associations will be felt in the public judgment.

Observers who are always going behind the deed to scrutinize the motive have made a good many unpleasant remarks about the unusual activity which the Congressmen have been showing at the present session. The Representatives could well afford to hear this if they would go steadily on with their work. They would finally be judged by what they do, not by what their critics say. But when they indulge in serio-comic debate over the motion for a holiday recess, they simply lay themselves open to the attacks of the enemy. Constituents were not inclined to find much fault because the Congressmen seemed inclined to give themselves the usual vacation. But when the members ridicule their own industry, they cannot expect that other people will have a high opinion of their sincerity. The constituents are in earnest; the Representatives may well be.

**SOME SENATORIAL CONTESTS.**  
 The sessions of several State Legislatures promise to be enlivened this winter by animated contests for the succession to seats in the United States Senate. If the preliminary maneuvering for position is an index, the aspirants are preparing for a struggle that in many cases will be long and bitter. Much greater independence of action will doubtless be witnessed in most of the contests and less activity in abiding by the decisions of the party caucuses. The leniency with which independent voting at the late elections has been treated has emboldened legislators with the belief that they can venture outside of party lines without danger of being ostracized. The political upheaval in November also evidenced a strong desire among the people for a new class of men and dissipated the sentiment that certain offices were the property of certain men as long as they chose to hold them. These elements are certain to play an important part in the Senatorial struggles to be decided during the next few months.

One of the most interesting of these contests will occur in Massachusetts. The struggle for the seat of Senator Hoar will be the hardest-fought Senatorial battle that the State has witnessed in many years, and it will involve more than the success or defeat of any one man. Senator Hoar has made an admirable legislator, and his record while in Congress is unassailable except upon one point. His vote for the River and Harbor bill in the last session forms the basis for the principal charge his enemies have to bring against him. They claim that the people at the late election pronounced against every Senator and Representative who aided in passing this bill, and that the Legislature ought not to disregard a verdict so unmistakably expressed. On the other hand, Mr. Hoar's friends assert that the hostility to him springs from the determined fight he has made against Butlerism in the Republican party, and that the River and Harbor bill is only used as a pretext. His defeat, they say, would mean that the Butler element is hereafter to control the organization. The contest is sure to be a warm one and will bring into action all the latent political forces in the State. It is likely to prove also more than a passing commotion, and it may be the entering wedge which will permanently separate the Butler Republicans from the party. It is undeniable that there are a good many in the organization who are willing to cast their political fortunes into the Butler pool, and it only needed the success the General won last month to give them the courage necessary to avow their purpose. The progress of this contest will be closely watched by the country, and the success of Senator Hoar will be hailed with satisfaction by all lovers of pure politics, while his defeat will be taken as a proof that the poison of Butlerism has tainted the springs of public life in Massachusetts.

The Senatorial situations in Michigan and Minnesota bear some striking resemblances to each other. In each of these States the outgoing Senator is a candidate for reelection, and the opposition comes largely from personal hostility. The principal rival, also, of each of the Senators can scarcely hope for success himself, and will be satisfied apparently if he can defeat the present incumbent and so gratify his revenge if not his ambition. In Michigan Senator Ferry's enemies announced early in the year their intention to prevent it possible, his election to a third term. It is doubtful, however, if the opposition led by Congressman Hubbell would have proved more than a forlorn hope had not the State election been disastrous to the Republicans. Some of the best party papers in the State, that were willing before the election to acquiesce in the return of Mr. Ferry to the Senate, now deem it wise to substitute a new man. But he has many warm admirers who claim that his public services have reflected honor upon the State, and that the only blot upon his legislative career is his advocacy of financial heresies in the Senate at a time when the friends of a sound currency stood sorely in need of aid. Time, it is claimed, has corrected this error of judgment. Too much uncertainty surrounds the contest to make any prediction of its result safe at this time. Like Senator Ferry, Senator Windom finds his path to further political honor beset by the enmity of a bitter personal rival. But the means employed to ruin Mr. Windom's prospects with the people of Minnesota and the charges against him have reacted, and the probabilities now favor his election as his own successor.

In only one other State, Nebraska, do complications surround the choice of a United States Senator. The railroad problem has in recent years entered more largely into politics there than in any other Western State. What is known as the Anti-Monopoly party succeeded in electing a number of candidates to the next Legislature, but how many, or how strongly their anti-railroad sentiments will influence their votes in the choice of a Senator, is as yet involved in doubt. What indications there are point to the selection of a Republican with so-called anti-monopoly sentiments to succeed Senator Saunders. These four Senatorial contests are the most interesting of those which will engage the attention of the Legislatures controlled by the Republicans.

**THE CURTIS DECISION.**  
 The Supreme Court (Justice Bradley dissenting) has confirmed the conviction of General Newton M. Curtis for violating the law prohibiting officers and employees of the Federal Government from exacting political assessments from each other. The opinion vindicates both the constitutionality and the expediency of the law. As to the constitutional question, it declares that Congress has power to regulate the conduct of officers and employees of the Government as far as may be necessary to secure a pure and efficient public service, and to secure a long list of acts, dating from the very organization of the Union, in which the power has been exercised: two in 1789, forbidding Treasury officials to be engaged in commerce, or to deal in the public property or securities; one in 1812, forbidding Federal judges to practise law; one in 1853, restricting officers from acting as claim agents; one in 1863, restraining Congressmen from practising in the Court of Claims; one in 1867, forbidding political assessments on workmen in the navy yards; one in 1868, against Congressmen taking interest in Government contracts; one in 1870, against presentations to officers; and others. The purpose of such laws is pronounced clearly within the legislative power. As to the expediency of the law, its tendency to protect the public servants against unjust exactions is declared not its only recommendation. If refusal to pay assessments may be a reason for putting good men out of the service, liberal payments may be made the ground for keeping poor ones in, and for increasing their salaries. Thus at length the Treasury may be made to pay the expenses of a political campaign for securing to the party in power another term of office.

Thus the law is fully sustained; but it is important to remember that the law does not profess to abolish all political assessments. Its language is that “executive officers or employees of the United States not appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate” are prohibited from requesting them. Thus it does not restrict private persons; managers of political campaigns not in the employ of the United States are free to ask for contributions. It does not interfere with such methods as those of Hubbell & Co., for Congressmen in framing the law were careful to leave themselves outside its operation; they are not executive officers or employees. But they will do well to ponder the decision, and the outspoken popular disapproval of the past assessments, and to amend and enlarge the law so that the whole system shall be rooted out.

**RAILROAD WARS.**  
 Most controversies have two sides. In the controversies between the railroads and those who have sought to “regulate” transportation by National law, THE TRIBUNE has failed to see good sense in the proposed enactments. Some have been bluntly communistic, some merely spiteful, and many injudicious and dangerous, though well-meant. But there is another side to the question. There are some features of railroad management which ought to be regulated or wholly suppressed, if it can be done without harm to public interests greater than the evil which it is sought to remove.

Last week there was issued from the office of Commissioner Fink a statement showing the movement of freight eastward from Chicago, during the past four years, and the rates charged. Live stock is not included in the statement of tonnage, nor any freight merely local to the road receiving it; the tonnage is given of all freight shipped each month from Chicago to points at or beyond the eastern termini of the Lake Shore, the Michigan Central and Canada Southern, the Grand Trunk, the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago, the various connections of the former Atlantic and Great Western to Salamanca, and the Baltimore and Ohio to Parkersburg and Wheeling. This statement, though it does not include the whole of east-bound through freight, practically and correctly represents the whole. The rates given are those charged on way-bills. As the actual charges were much lower during the railroad wars, the difference being made up by rebates and other devices, THE RAILROAD GAZETTE holds it reasonable to allow only 13½ cents per 100 pounds for the lowest and largest class of freight in August, 1881, 12½ cents for the rest of that year, 10 cents for January, 13½ cents for February, and 17½ cents for March. These, and the rates given by Commissioner Fink's office, are the rates for grain and flour, which form so large a part of the east-bound through freight that the results of the whole eastward movement are thought to be correctly indicated by assuming that the entire tonnage eastward went through to New-York at the lowest rates.

Computations on this basis, not made by any

Brangers, Anti-Monopolists or “blackmailers,” but by the Commissioner's assistants and THE RAILROAD GAZETTE, show changes in monthly earnings as follows:

	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.
January.....	\$975,510	\$1,309,800	\$1,847,110	\$642,200
February.....	800,390	1,224,416	1,684,690	722,810
March.....	742,740	1,224,416	1,684,690	722,810
April.....	835,440	1,224,416	1,684,690	722,810
May.....	792,090	1,224,416	1,684,690	722,810
June.....	792,090	1,224,416	1,684,690	722,810
July.....	792,090	1,224,416	1,684,690	722,810
August.....	792,090	1,224,416	1,684,690	722,810
September.....	804,540	1,224,416	1,684,690	722,810
October.....	1,224,416	1,224,416	1,684,690	722,810
November.....	1,224,416	1,224,416	1,684,690	722,810
December.....	1,224,416	1,224,416	1,684,690	722,810

In these forty-seven months the same great railroads were employed as machines for transportation, but with results ranging all the way from \$2,232,818 per month to \$475,195 per month. With the same capital, the same debt to be supported, the same army of men employed, the same tracks and rolling stock to be kept busy, these companies earned about \$72,000 daily in one month and only \$16,000 daily in another. Naturally it will be inferred that these extraordinary variations are unavoidable, being due to the different quantity of freight moved. For illustration, therefore, we contrast the tonnage actually moved in a few of the months with the earnings:

	Tonnage.	Earnings.
December, 1879.....	179,167	\$1,438,386
January, 1880.....	244,790	\$1,175,927
February, 1880.....	244,790	\$1,175,927
March, 1880.....	244,790	\$1,175,927
April, 1880.....	244,790	\$1,175,927
May, 1880.....	244,790	\$1,175,927
June, 1880.....	244,790	\$1,175,927
July, 1880.....	244,790	\$1,175,927
August, 1880.....	244,790	\$1,175,927
September, 1880.....	244,790	\$1,175,927
October, 1880.....	244,790	\$1,175,927
November, 1880.....	244,790	\$1,175,927
December, 1880.....	244,790	\$1,175,927

In the four months first named, the roads transported eastward 1,006,804 tons of freight, and in the other four months 1,085,975 tons, a larger quantity. But in the first four months the earnings were \$7,226,791, and in the second series of months the earnings were only \$2,410,916. If we assume that the bare cost of transportation and maintenance of property, without any interest or dividends for capital, is only \$2 per ton from Chicago to New-York—an estimate which all will admit is too low, for it is only 10 cents per 100 pounds—even then the roads earned for interest on capital invested only \$238,960 in the second period of four months, and \$5,213,183 in the first period. If the estimate of bare cost is placed higher, it appears that the roads not only transported freight during the second period without profits for capital, but at an actual loss, while the difference between the profitable and unprofitable months remains the same—about \$5,000,000.

What right have railroad managers to play tricks with the property entrusted to their charge, after such a fashion as this? Judged by its earnings, this vast property was rendered valueless for eleven months out of the forty-seven, and yet the same managers proved that they had power to earn, and actually did earn, with the same property, from \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000 for capital, in excess of all costs of transportation, in one of these years. The charge that speculation by railroad managers is at the bottom of nearly all troubles in transportation seems to have some foundation. Stockholders and bondholders have the right to ask whether railroad was made for the purpose of rendering stocks comparatively valueless, or not contrary to public policy. The public has reason to inquire, too, whether the violent fluctuations in rates, which railroad managers find excuse for making when they want to buy or to sell stocks, cannot be prevented.

**THE JEANNETTE'S MODEL.**  
 Naval Constructor Much has fully confirmed THE TRIBUNE's judgment in regard to the ill-fated Jeannette. He had general charge of the construction and repairing of vessels at the Mare Island Navy Yard at the time that ill-fated vessel was being overhauled for her Arctic voyage, and coincided in the opinion of the Board of Inspection that she was not adapted for an extended cruise in high latitudes. In his deposition which was laid before the Board of Inquiry on Monday, he declared that when the ship left San Francisco he did not consider her fit for an Arctic expedition. This opinion was based on the fact that she was an old vessel, built as a yacht rather than as an ice ship, and that her model was not adapted for Arctic cruising. In his judgment it would not have been possible, by any additional repairs which might have been made, to render her a good and safe ship for the work that lay before her.

As the other naval experts have concurred in these opinions this judgment will probably be accepted by the Board of Inquiry as final. Sir Allan Young, an Arctic navigator of extended experience, has had a more favorable account to give of the vessel but as he was the owner when the purchase was negotiated in England by Mr. Bennett, his views in regard to her strength and model will be regarded with suspicion. The fact remains that in the deliberate judgment of the Board of Examiners and the naval experts who superintended the work of reconstruction, the Jeannette was not the ship she ought to have been in order to have entered upon a voyage of such extraordinary hazard with a reasonable prospect of success. Another time it will be wiser for an enthusiast in Arctic discovery, who wishes to engage the services of officers of the United States Navy, to have a commission of experts build or buy his ship rather than attempt to repair and reconstruct it for service for which it is not fundamentally adapted.

**A SOCIAL CUTLEFISH.**  
 The average Socialist in certain respects presents a strong likeness to the cuttlefish. When pressed with searching questions concerning his beliefs, he emits a discharge of dark and mysterious generalities and indefinite platitudes, under cover of which he makes good his retreat. A fair example of this is to be found in the utterances of Herr Most, who has just been welcomed with the clashing of beer mugs as a martyr fresh from “British dungeons.” Herr Most announces his creed as “the ownership of everything by everybody,” which has a sort of glittering attractiveness calculated to produce an impression in the most hardened monopolist provided he can be “everybody,” but when Herr Most is asked whether, if Communism existed, he would work harder than his neighbor, he would receive more money, the answer is “That is one of the difficulties.”

Now this answer may be interpreted in different ways. The most natural inference is that Herr Most considers it would be difficult to imagine his working harder than his neighbor, which, from what we can learn of so-called Socialists, is undoubtedly true. Or he may mean that it would be difficult to find anyone who would do less work than he, which is probably true. Perhaps he has a dim glimmering of the fact that so long as men possess varying capacities, mental and physical, they will never submit to “equal interests in the production of all” and “the interest of all in the work of each one.” So he endeavors to settle away, protecting his escape by saying “If the minority worked harder than the majority, then they would have more. Why could there not be two pockets each having its own?” But surely Herr Most forgets that this would constitute an aristocracy, as he grows under at present, and would be a subversion of the principles of perfect equality upon which Socialism is supposed to be based. When pressed further by a question whether reward for effort, under the Communism, would be in proportion to the effort, he launches the cuttlefish dodge. He flatly confesses his inability to answer and repeats “That is one of the difficulties about which the leaders are not decided. It

is a detail which can be settled when the Communism is established.”

Nevertheless the question is a very simple one and yet of primary importance. Will the man who can earn \$3 a day be willing to be limited to \$2.50 because his neighbor can only earn \$2? This is merely a different phase of the same idea, and one that was dispassionately discussed by Mill without any morbidness, branding of pretels or crying for blood. And if Herr Most waits the “establishment of the Communism” to answer this question, he waits until the arrival of the millennium. As a cuttlefish, with a natural talent for evasion and a sly cold-bloodedness, however, Herr Most is a success.

Henry James, sr., has been so little before the public late that the news of his death will attract many simply because he was the father of the novelist. To the father as a trained and polished writer singularly felicitous in expression the son owes much. In the critical dissection of character, the balancing of motives, and the often introspective study of mental and spiritual phenomena which characterizes the works of the novelist, can be traced a direct inheritance from the father's devotion to metaphysical analysis and psychological speculation.

## PERSONAL.

The Georgia Legislature has made an appropriation of \$1,000 for a portrait of the late Senator B. H. Hill, to be placed on the wall of the Chamber of Representatives. A Georgia artist will be selected to paint it.

General John B. Gordon and wife reached their home in Atlanta, Ga., last Friday, on their return from Europe. The General was considered by his friends there to look the very picture of health, and is younger than he did when he left the Senate.

The Rev. John P. Taylor, of the Second Congregational Church, New-London, Conn., has accepted the call to a professorship at Andover. He will not give up his pastorate until next July or August, however, and will not tender a formal resignation before next spring.

Mr. James McMillan, of Adrian, Mich., has purchased the Shakespearean library of Colonel Thompson, of Flint, and will present it to the University of Michigan. The collection is said to be the finest Shakespearean library in America. It contains, among other interesting copies of the great poet's works, a reading-dress, colored once over and worn by William Shakespeare, and another once the property of W. E. Burton; and a third bearing the autograph of Macready.

Professor F. L. O. Rhoerig, Dean of the College of Asiatic Languages at Cornell University, is said to speak fluently more languages than any other person in the world. Several official papers recently received by the State Department at Washington, in languages that no one there understood, have been sent to him to translate, which he has done without difficulty. It is reported that his familiarity with the Persian tongue, as well as with nearly all the important languages of Asia and Europe, has caused his appointment as Chargé d'Affaires in Persia to be strongly recommended and favorably considered at Washington.

Mr. Gladstone will next month visit his Midlothian constituents, as the guest of the Earl of Rosebery, at Dalmeny. He will be entertained at a banquet in the Edinburgh Corn Exchange by the Liberal Club of Scotland, and will address three meetings of electors at the Corn Exchange, Edinburgh, at West Calton, and at Dalmeny. Should he, as is hoped, prolong his stay until January 29, an ovation will be tendered him on that day, the semi-centennial anniversary of his first occupation of a seat in the House of Commons. He will probably arrive in Edinburgh on January 15.

Dr. Macdonald's patients on Ward's Island are about to issue a newspaper—probably the first considerable venture of this sort ever undertaken by patients in a lunatic asylum. The journal is to be called “The Moon.” It has underneath the title a rather good engraving of the buildings on the Island as seen by moonlight. It bears the appropriate motto:

Fair Moon, to thee I sing!  
 Bright regent of the heavens,  
 Say, why is everything  
 Sad at the close of evenings?  
 It is frankly and honestly said “New-York City Asylum for the Insane, January 1, 1883.”

**DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 19.**—The Rev. Dr. B. F. Cocker, a prominent Methodist divine, professor of mental and moral philosophy in the University of Michigan, is lying very low from an attack of acute pneumonia. There is little hope of his recovery.

## GENERAL NOTES.

A late report from the East says that the Chinese and Japanese have discovered that good cheese can be manufactured from a species of bean which they have long eaten as a vegetable. And why not, if “me old Cheddar” can be made of oleomargarine!

In the historic town of Boscacon, N. H., is a Congregational church which celebrated last Wednesday the forty-fifth anniversary of the installation of its second pastor, the Rev. Edward Buxton. The change of sentiment among religious people as to the use of liquor is forcibly illustrated by the fact that the church on July 3, 1837, when the frame of the present edifice was raised, 54 pounds sugar at 14¢, 89¢ 20¢; 60¢; 3¢; 4¢; 5¢; 6¢; 7¢; 8¢; 9¢; 10¢; 11¢; 12¢; 13¢; 14¢; 15¢; 16¢; 17¢; 18¢; 19¢; 20¢; 21¢; 22¢; 23¢; 24¢; 25¢; 26¢; 27¢; 28¢; 29¢; 30¢; 31¢; 32¢; 33¢; 34¢; 35¢; 36¢; 37¢; 38¢; 39¢; 40¢; 41¢; 42¢; 43¢; 44¢; 45¢; 46¢; 47¢; 48¢; 49¢; 50¢; 51¢; 52¢; 53¢; 54¢; 55¢; 56¢; 57¢; 58¢; 59¢; 60¢; 61¢; 62¢; 63¢; 64¢; 65¢; 66¢; 67¢; 68¢; 69¢; 70¢; 71¢; 72¢; 73¢; 74¢; 75¢; 76¢; 77¢; 78¢; 79¢; 80¢; 81¢; 82¢; 83¢; 84¢; 85¢; 86¢; 87¢; 88¢; 89¢; 90¢; 91¢; 92¢; 93¢; 94¢; 95¢; 96¢; 97¢; 98¢; 99¢; 100¢.

A Philadelphian, detained by business, spent a recent Sunday in Baltimore. In the evening he went to a saloon and took a drink, several men who were present drinking with him. The next morning he was awakened by a summons to appear before the Grand Jury as a witness to prove that the saloon-keeper had violated the Sunday law. He acknowledged that he had taken a drink in the place named, and when asked if others were present, promptly pointed out two of the jurymen as his chance companions of the night before. The jurymen, who were the following day on the stand, will do you, you can go home,” and the Philadelphian was politely escorted to the door by a bailiff.

Rats will fight desperately when death is the only alternative, and as a man who keeps out of reach of their teeth, the following anecdote shows how a rat of “nerve” ought to act when the enemy is very close range. A printer happened in at a hotel in Sacramento the other day just in time to join a group of men who were waiting to see a terrier kill a rat. The cage was opened and the rat most unexpectedly ran up the printer's leg inside his trousers. He did not scream or clutch, but clenched his hands, stood erect and coolly told those present to be quiet. “Now he is going up by my knee; now he is on my thigh; now he has passed to the small of my back; now he rests. Don't strike; don't seize him. Here, take a small stick, tap gently about the middle of his back, and he will come out. Now drive him down easily—don't provoke him.